

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraphs 0002 and 0040 respectively with the following replacement paragraphs:

[0002] The eXtensible Markup Language (XML) is a World Wide Web Consortium (W3C®) endorsed standard (reference the www website w3c.org/tr) for document formatting that provides a generic syntax to mark up data with human-readable tags. Although XML may easily describe the contents of a document in a well-defined format, there are other sources of data that may not so easily be described either because their structure is inconsistent with that of a standard text document or because of some other non-XML compatible characteristic. An example of such a data source may be a spreadsheet or a relational database.

[0040] An example query intermediate language definition is provided in a co-filed patent application entitled QUERY INTERMEDIATE LANGUAGE METHOD AND SYSTEM assigned to Microsoft Corporation of Redmond, WA (Serial No. 10/601,444, filed on June 23, 2003). The contents of that co-filed application are considered to be incorporated in its entirety by reference into this application.